

THE EARLY ZHOU DYNASTY

Confucius (551–479 B.C.E.)—a Chinese philosopher and teacher and teacher whose ideas and teachings influenced Chinese (and other Asian countries') government, society, and culture

Duke of Zhou—a ruler during the early years of the Zhou Dynasty; he was a successful military leader as well as an administrator. Confucius was a great admirer of the Duke of Zhou.

Sometimes when things are not going well, it makes sense to think about how others in the past might have solved similar problems. Confucius thought so, and he believed strongly in looking into the past for clues on how to solve the problems of his time.

A dynasty is a period of rule by members of a single clan.² Confucius lived toward the end of the rule of the Zhou (pronounced "joe") clan, the Zhou Dynasty (1122–221 B.C.E.) The end of the Zhou Dynasty was a very troubled time. There were many wars and many people were not happy.

Confucius greatly admired the early years of the Zhou Dynasty and its rulers, in particular, the Duke of Zhou. Confucius studied the history of the early Zhou Dynasty, hoping that the past would give some guidance on how people in the present should live. Confucius studied the rites and rituals of the early Zhou Dynasty. These rituals and ceremonies outlined how people should relate to each other so that society would run smoothly and peacefully. In addition, Confucius became skilled in the six ancient arts. He learned about rituals, music, how to shoot a bow and arrow, calligraphy, arithmetic, and how to drive a chariot.

GROUP TASK

1. With your group, discuss the paragraph. List the three most important points of the paragraph.
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2. Illustrate each point on a separate sheet of paper. Your illustrations will be added to the class timeline. You can include words on your illustrations. Make sure you write in large letters so that everyone in the room can see.
3. Include these points on your individual timelines.
4. Prepare a short presentation about your illustrations. Your presentation should include
 - a description of each illustration
 - its importance
 - the date (if used)